

OBJECTIVE	The objective of this activity is to engage young people in a discussion around knife crime and to identify and discuss different points of view. As a facilitator it should allow you to assess the needs of the group in relation to this issue.
EQUIPMENT	Tape
TIME	Approximately 10-20 minutes
METHOD	Before the session starts tape the shape of a large knife on the ground, the bigger the better. Now split the group into pairs and explain to them that you are going to ask them two questions which they only have a couple of minutes to answer, and that the reason they have been split into pairs is so that they can discuss the questions they are going to answer.
QUESTION 1	What do young people like about knife crime?
QUESTION 2	What do young people hate about knife crime?

TOP TIP...

Let the young people know that they can answer honestly and that their answers will not be recorded or repeated outside the room. It is important to build up trust in order that you can work effectively in the future.

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AFTER THE QUESTIONS

Once the questions have been asked, choose a pair from the group to feedback on what they discussed. From my experience young people tend to say things related to 'like' knife crime such as 'it's fun', 'you get respect', 'you get a buzz', 'you feel part of a group'. The types of things that they may say about 'hate' knife crime include 'the damage it causes in the community', 'the injuries people get from it', 'spending time in jail', 'being murdered'.

Once this activity is completed you can take the discussion further and explore the issues in more depth. You can physically step into the knife on the floor while explaining to the young people that you are a 14 year old that carries a knife. Now you can ask them the question as an open discussion, 'what do I like about knife crime?' Continuing on from this you can step out of the knife, but this time you are a 14 year old that is not involved in a gang or carrying a knife. Then ask the question again, 'what do I like about knife crime?'

By exploring this question using this process, you have created an opportunity for the young people to see the issue from different points of view. This may also create an opportunity for the group to begin to explore other behaviours in the same way.

TOP TIP...

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